



ENERGY WARRIOR PROFILE

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Q: HOW MANY DIFFERENT INSTALLATIONS DO YOU WORK WITH AND WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR PROJECTS?

I support Camp Morena, Navy Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) San Clemente Island, NALF Imperial Beach, the Silver Strand Training Complex South, Naval Amphibious Base and Naval Air Station North Island. I also work with personnel from Camp Michael Monsoor and the Remote Training Site Warner Springs, which are east of San Diego—out in the forest.

We are doing about five Rasterization and Modernization energy (RMe) projects right now, and they range from lighting to water savings to heating, ventilation and air conditioning system upgrades and retro commissioning (the application of the commissioning process to existing buildings). Combined, that’s about two or three million dollars’ worth of projects.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCREASES

Q: HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH ENERGY?

My first job as an energy program manager was at Andersen Air Force Base. That's really where I got a feel for everything that was going on. I was like, "I could do this as a career. This is fun." It's a dynamic job—there's something new going on every day. It's a two part job—there's a project portion and a program portion. So I am never bored.

Q: WHY IS CULTURE CHANGE WITHIN THE NAVY REGARDING ENERGY SO IMPORTANT?

Well, say you're a brand new Sailor or Soldier coming into the military. I mean, I was there. (I was in the Army). I had no clue about how the military really operated or how much energy we consumed. Now, I have a much greater understanding of how it all works. And if you can appreciate the importance of energy use and conservation, then you'll be more inclined to be a better energy steward for the Navy. You start to slowly change the way you think, especially if you live or work on a base.

Think about the impact that energy has on your everyday life—anywhere from using your phone to turning on a light. It's a convenience, right? One of the best things in the morning is letting that hot water hit you in the shower. But, if you think about what it really takes to get that hot water to you—the logistics that go into making that happen—then you start to understand just how dependent we are on energy that is readily available to us.

It comes down to the small, cumulative savings. Once everybody starts playing their part and doing their thing to save energy, that's when culture change really happens.

Q: HOW DO YOU THINK WE CAN COMMUNICATE THIS CRUCIAL MESSAGE TO OUR SAILORS?

If you focus on the young man or woman coming into the military and instilled them with Navy values—part of that being energy conservation—then they'll take those lessons with them for the rest of their career. If you plant the seed early, it's going to grow throughout their professional and personal lives.

But the culture is different on every base. I have lots of experience working at different bases and people are different at every base. So, you have to tailor your message to your audience and where they're located. You have to change your approach depending on the culture at hand.

Q: WHAT DOES BEING AN ENERGY WARRIOR MEAN TO YOU?

Anyone who wants to be an Energy Warrior can be one. Ultimately, Energy Program Managers can act as mentors since we are usually on the technical forefront of energy conservation initiatives and methods across the Navy. So we're teaching people what we know and that's cool. Knowledge is one of the greatest gifts you can give somebody. It's a delivery system of information that's ultimately going to help everybody. That's what it means to me to be an Energy Warrior.